

From: Lee Berger
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 8:39pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wish to express my support for Microsoft and my disgust and disappointment in a government that seeks to punish a successful business for its very success.

Microsoft undertook to make the benefits of the computer and internet available to the average citizen. This was good for the buyer, who 10 years before could not have afforded to own such a system, and it was good for Microsoft, who generated a larger customer base. Historically, this is the way the world has benefited from new inventions and novel applications (the Model T Ford, for example). Someone finds a way to make the new invention inexpensive enough for the average man, who snaps it up eagerly.

The excitement when Windows 95 was launched demonstrated this eagerness to enhance one's life. Windows has streamlined and enriched my own life immeasurably. I freely made this choice and will continue to control what I put on my computer. Microsoft (or any other company) has the right to offer its wares and the rest of us, to purchase them or not.

There has been no damage to consumers. We have received a boon! We each freely chose to buy these products for our own reasons. In a free society, the sight of one person's success should inspire a redoubling of effort on the part of every other worker, not envy and a wish to destroy the innovator.

Our Constitution guarantees protection of our property rights. Where is the protection for Microsoft? Can any of us feel confidence in our government in the face of such a blatant misuse of power? I do not wish to live in a country that penalizes our best minds. It is time for us to wake up and recognize the uniqueness of our Constitution and the superb moral mechanism of the free market system.

Leora K. Berger
2014 Browning Avenue South
Salem, Oregon 97302